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This Week in Wabash



Hello, Wabash,

It's good to be with you this Wednesday. [As I promised in my first newsletter](#), on the front page of today's paper is [my interview with Tesla guitarist Frank Hannon](#). The multi-platinum rock band will be performing tonight at the Honeywell Center after they were forced to postpone their August date due to the band suffering from COVID-19 infections.



One thing I appreciate about interviews like this with accomplished musicians is the unexpected turns they can take. Hannon is well-known for his guitar skills, but while I was researching the band before the interview, I discovered he is also a multi-instrumentalist. One of the instruments he's known for besides guitar is the theremin.

Even if you don't know what the theremin is, my guess is you're familiar with it from a variety of settings. It was famously heard on the Beach Boys' hit song "Good Vibrations." It's also been heavily featured in just about every campy horror movie you've ever seen.

As Hannon mentioned in our interview, for guitar players like him, the theremin is used more of a sound effect than an actual instrument. But, there are actual, real-life virtuosos of the instrument, too. Hannon mentioned Clara Rockmore, who toured extensively with accompanying musicians, often performing haunting renditions of classical music pieces. [This performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' "The Swan"](#) is very well done.

Did I think interviewing a member of what many regard as a “hair metal” band would lead me to a deep dive on an instrument that works on the same principles as the metal detectors you see people combing beaches for treasures with? Of course not. But, I'm glad it did.

Well, that's all I have for you this week. I'll be back with you next Wednesday. Enjoy the rest of your day.

Best,

Rob



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